



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/634,054	08/08/2000	David A. Newsome, M.D.	P00005US (53783.1P)	4792
22920	7590	06/28/2002		EXAMINER
GARVEY SMITH NEHRBASS & DOODY, LLC THREE LAKEWAY CENTER 3838 NORTH CAUSEWAY BLVD., SUITE 3290 METAIRIE, LA 70002			HAYES, MICHAEL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3763	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/634,054

Applicant(s)

NEWSOME, M.D., DAVID A. 

Examiner

Michael J Hayes

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 21-32 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-8, 10, 21-26 and 32 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 27-29 and 31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 30 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 1-8, 10, 21, and 32 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 6.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term "soft" in claim 28 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "soft" is not defined by the claim; the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The hardness of the lens material has been rendered indefinite with the use of the term "soft."

Specification

The specification is objected to because Applicant uses a term that appears to be a trademark, POLYFILCON. As a trademark, it should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology. Although the use of trademarks is permissible in

Art Unit: 3763

patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 27, 28, 29, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BECK (U. S. Patent No. 6,319,240) in view of Applicant's disclosure. Beck discloses an apparatus for electrophoresis on an eye including an outer concave/convex shell having an electrode, an inner disposable pre-medicated soft lens with a dilator (8:35-41), and a power source for the electrode. Beck does not disclose the lens is POLYFILCON or that the power source is light-activated. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use POLYFILCON as a design choice since Applicant has not disclosed that POLYFILCON solves a stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that a lens made from another polymer would work equally as well as a pre-medicated reservoir in contact with the eye. Beck does not disclose a light-activated power source; however Applicant discloses that such power sources are well known and commercially available (pg. 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a light-activated power source as the power source in the invention of Beck in order to take advantage

Art Unit: 3763

of well-known benefits of such a power source. The use and interchangeability of various types of power sources would be obvious to the skilled artisan as equivalents.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. PAREL et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,154,671) and ABREU (U. S. Patent No. 6,312,393) show devices for performing electrophoresis on a patient's eye.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Hayes at (703) 305-5873. The examiner can usually be reached Monday - Thursday, 7:00-4:30, and on alternate Fridays. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler, can be contacted at (703) 308-3552. The fax number for submitting official papers is (703) 872-9302. The fax number for submitting after final papers is (703) 872-9303.

mjh
20 June 2002


MICHAEL J. HAYES
PRIMARY EXAMINER